

1 important that it be adopted, and secondly, describe  
2 what specifically it would do.

3 Many people tend to consider budgeting as pri-  
4 marily an exercise in finance, and it is indeed an exer-  
5 cise in finance, but budgeting more than any other area,  
6 more than any other single thing that comes before a  
7 legislative body, is the pre-eminent statement of public  
8 policy in a State.

9 The budget more than any act or any group of  
10 acts passed by the General Assembly determines the  
11 priorities which will be laid down for the conduct of the  
12 business of the State.

13 Going back into the most ancient times in the  
14 development of parliamentary government and executive-  
15 legislative government, the power of the purse has been a  
16 legislative power. The power to determine and set the  
17 priorities for the State has been historically and ought  
18 to be in this State a legislative power. It is a power  
19 in which the governor participates by recommending the  
20 priorities in a budget, and it is the priorities established  
21 by the legislature by appropriations.